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Agenda item 40 (c)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Letter dated 16 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as the Permanent Representative of the State which holds the chairmanship of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), I have the honour to transmit herewith the decision of the CIS Council of Heads of State on "Follow-up implementation of the decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 1 July 2001 on the events related to the fifteenth anniversary of the accident at the Chornobyl nuclear power station" (see annex). The Council of Heads of State of the CIS, inter alia, supported the joint proposal of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to proclaim 26 April the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Radiation Accidents and Catastrophes.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 40 (c), "Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster".

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchinsky**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 16 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine addressed to the Secretary-General

Decision on follow-up implementation of the decision by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 1 June 2001 on events related to the fifteenth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in implementation of the decision by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 1 June 2001 on events related to the fifteenth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station,

Have decided:

(1) To proclaim 26 April the International Day in Memory of the Victims of Radiation Accidents and Disasters in Participating States of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

(2) To support the joint proposal by the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on making amendments to the text of the United Nations General Assembly draft resolution on the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, with regard to proclaiming 26 April the International Day in Memory of the Victims of Radiation Accidents and Disasters; to request the Russian Federation, as the coordinator in the United Nations for this resolution, to promote its consideration at the fifty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly;

(3) To request the Governments of the CIS participating States to continue to carry out measures aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of steps taken to provide social support to persons who have suffered from the effect of radiation as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, in accordance with national legislation.

Done at Yalta on 19 September 2003 in one original copy in the Russian language. The original copy is deposited with the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which will send to each State that has signed this decision its certified copy.

For the Republic of Armenia:
(*Signed*) Robert **Kocharian**

For the Republic of Azerbaijan:
(*Signed*) Heydar **Aliev**

For the Republic of Belarus:
(*Signed*) Alexandr **Lukashenko**

For Georgia:
(*Signed*) Eduard **Shevardnadze**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:
(*Signed*) Nursultan **Nazarbayev**

For the Kyrgyz Republic:
(*Signed*) Askar **Akayev**

For the Republic of Moldova:
(*Signed*) Vladimir **Voronin**

For the Russian Federation:
(*Signed*) Vladimir **Putin**

For the Republic of Tajikistan:
(*Signed*) Emomali **Rahmonov**

For Turkmenistan:

For Ukraine:
(*Signed*) Leonid **Kuchma**

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:
(*Signed*) Islam **Karimov**